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DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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Official Blueprint for State Government Released Today

Baton Rouge – Louisiana continues to forge ahead as an emerging technology leader with the release of its information technology (IT) master plan for the state: *LA Connections: Louisiana's Blueprint for Digital State Government*.

This plan is right in line with Louisiana's recent recognition for the great strides it has made in the area of technology. The Center for Digital Government and The Progress and Freedom Foundation in its *Digital State 2000 Report* ranked Louisiana in the top 20 states on their 2000 Digital Report Card. Louisiana ranked 18th in the nation, an improvement of 28 states from its 1998 rank of 46th.

"LA Connections will only help to further enhance and improve Louisiana's Digital Report Card, improving Louisiana as a whole," said Chief Information Officer Jim DuBos.

The vision of LA Connections is that every citizen will have access to Louisiana government services 24 hours a day, seven days a week and that technology innovations will enhance the quality of life for all Louisiana citizens.

"As I said in my Inaugural Address last year, I truly believe that if we are going to defeat poverty, build wealth, and create opportunity, we must capture the

benefits of the technological revolution that we are witnessing today,” said Governor Mike Foster, Jr. “LA Connections will help us to do just that.”

The goal of LA Connections is to make Louisiana State Government technology-ready.

“Establishing an e-government structure is critical to Louisiana state government,” said DuBos. “LA Connections will help to enable government to do things better internally and externally -- something long overdue in Louisiana and greatly needed by citizens.”

The Digital Blueprint lays out a plan of action to use technology for a better Louisiana -- a Louisiana empowered to serve the public, improve education, enhance economic development, and defeat poverty. It also provides a means for state government to support Vision 2020, Louisiana’s twenty-year master plan for economic development. The ultimate goal of Vision 2020 is to make Louisiana a “top-ten” state in which to live, work and do business.

LA Connections is different from most other states’ IT plans in that it addresses both the internal and external aspects of technology in government.

“We’re securing Louisiana’s future in the new Millennium,” said Secretary of Economic Development Don Hutchinson. “Louisiana is taking a pioneering approach with its IT Master Plan because we have focused on what happens within government and how this affects the average Louisiana citizen. This plan will drastically improve the operation of state government and make the lives of the people of Louisiana easier by giving them better access to government services.”

The goals of LA Connections are to provide:

- World-class government services to citizens

- Visionary leadership and governance
- Progressive policies for economic development
- Cost-effective and responsive IT architecture
- High-speed information access to communities
- Innovative education and training opportunities
- Culture that ensures continuous technological innovation

The statewide effort to establish LA Connections began in February 2000. Over 200 participants partnered with the Administration on the LAConnections initiative, including representatives from all three branches of government -- Executive, Legislative and Judicial. The release of this report today is the invitation for the private sector to partner with state government to make these goals a reality. The Digital Blueprint is intended to be a working document and is posted on the Web at laconnections.la.gov.

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